GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2747
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Creation of Durable Assets under MGNREGS
Kamal Nath Shri ;Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Sreeramulu Shri B.;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is facing shortage of funds despite the highest ever budgetary allocation and the Ministry is now seeking an additional Rs. 10000 crore and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether MGNREGS was started for creation of permanent and durable assets with the objective to enhance livelihood, security and providing employment to rural people and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether durable assets have been created in villages since inception of this scheme and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some State Governments have requested to include more items of work which are not related to creation of durable assets to give employment to rural people and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to include more items of work under the said scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): The total budgetary allocation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for the current FY 2016-17 is Rs. 43,499 crore including the additional allocation of Rs. 5,000 crore provided at the first supplementary stage. The Ministry has already released Rs. 38,229.49 crore (as on 25.11.2016) to the States/UTs. Out of the released amount of Rs. 38,229.49 crore to the States/UTs, an amount of Rs. 12,697 crore has been expended by States/UTs on clearing the pending liabilities for the FY 2015-16 which amounted to 33% of the total released amount.

The funds release to States/ UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to make funds available as per actual basis.

(b): MGNREGS is to strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor through creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability. The works that are repetitive and recurring in nature are not permitted under MGNREGA.

(c): The number of works completed under MGNREGA during the last three years and the current year is indicated in Annexure-I.

(d): Suggestions for inclusion of new items of works are received from the States from time to time. Such suggestions are examined by the Ministry in light of the aims and objectives of the Act and decided accordingly.

(e): The Ministry has amended schedule I & II of the Act on 3rd January, 2014 and included more item of works. Further, on 21st July, 2014, a provision has been made in schedule I of the Act that at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in items of the cost under MGNREGA shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

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